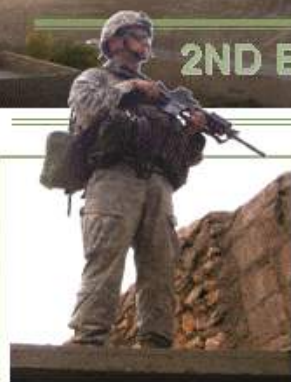


# WHITE FALCON NEWS LETTER

Ed & En: OIF-3, 30 September 2005

## 2ND Battalion 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment



**White Falcons  
Remain on  
Task in  
Tal A'far**



**White Falcons  
Morale is High  
as they get ready  
to Redeploy**



we are proud of our accomplishments here in Iraq and have experienced an enormous amount professional satisfaction defeating the terrorists and helping the good people of Tal A'far build a better life for themselves, we very much look forward to being reunited with our loved ones later this month.

Meanwhile, the pace of operations continues to be very fast and although the threshold for successful prosecution of terrorists has risen and become very demanding, we have already crested over 100 terrorists sent to

the nationwide detention facilities, surpassing our numbers from our successful deployment last time. Throughout zone we have defeated several Anti-Iraqi Forces (AIF) terrorist cells and clearly retain the initiative. Our troopers have truly excelled and will be recognized at a Battalion Task Force Awards Ceremony hosted by Colonel McMaster, the Commander of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and Major General Rodriguez, the Commander of Multinational Division Northwest on 22 December. We will be sure to take pictures to pass

Dear White Falcon Families and Friends,

This marks our final edition of the White Falcon Newsletter for OIF-3 and while

**AIRBORNE!**

**ALL THE WAY!**

**LET'S GO!**

along, and to display along with all of our other photos, at our next Battalion Ball in the Spring.

Our efforts to facilitate reconstruction of Tal A'far remain on track. Since the last newsletter, we have completed several important projects including electricity restoration, store front refurbishment, curb repair, schools renovation, and three soccer fields. As you've no doubt seen from previous newsletters, your Paratroopers have affiliated very well with the local populace (especially children!) and that, in turn, has contributed to a better security environment as tips on terrorist activities continue to come in regularly.



*Battalion Commander meets with  
Mayor of Mukhallabiyah*

We had a great Thanksgiving here, as good as to be expected being away from family and friends. Fortunately, we had our "second family"-- each other -- and the mission to focus on, not to mention a great meal with most of the trimmings of home! We certainly have a lot to be thankful for... in your prayers please remember our wounded paratroopers, PFC Fregeolle who is battling a very serious illness, and the families of our killed in action from previous deployments.

Thank you again for all of your outstanding and steadfast support to the White Falcons. We greatly



*"Professional satisfaction  
defeating the terrorists and  
helping the good people of Tal  
A'far build a better life"*



appreciate all of the packages, letters, and emails of support and encouragement. We look forward to seeing you soon, at Green Ramp if you can make it. Our redeployment window remains the same as put out in the last message.

When we get exact times of flights, we will relay them to you through the rear detachment. We do not expect flight information for at least another week. We can confirm the block leave dates as 26 Jan-Feb 12. These 18 days of leave are well deserved.

Until we reunite, God Bless.

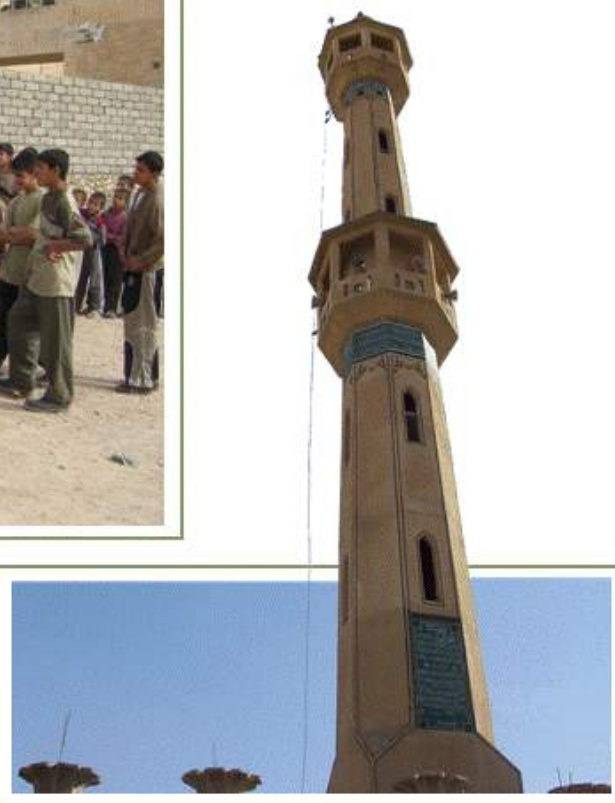
Lieutenant Colonel Chris Gibson  
Command Sergeant Major Richard Flowers







*"We have completed several important projects including electricity restoration, store front refurbishment, curb repair, schools renovation, and three soccer fields"*



## Chaplain Corner

To our White Falcon Family and Friends,

We send greetings from Tal A'far, Iraq. During this past month, our Paratroopers continue to press on with the mission and are providing a safer environment for the town's people. Due to their tireless efforts, the conditions are being set for a free and stable society. As the weather has turned colder and work hours remain long, the White Falcon morale and devotion to duty is still high.

Weekly Catholic and Protestant services continue to be held at all the Company areas. In the past few days, we have conducted special Thanksgiving worship services in which many soldiers expressed their gratitude to God for His blessings and gracious protection. During this season of Thanksgiving, we are so grateful for your steadfast support and prayers for our brave White Falcon Paratroopers.

Chaplain Carson



# ALPHA COMPANY

## "GATORS"



Hello one more time from Tal A'far, Iraq Family and Friends of the Gators and Happy Thanksgiving.

While all the left over turkey is gone (so no more midnight sandwiches), it is wonderful to report that things **STILL** continue to go **GREAT** with all of us. A lot has happened since our last note. Each and every Trooper in the Company continues to push hard to continue to help and brighten the future of Iraq daily. There is not a day that passes that the hard work of these great Americans is not impressive. If it were possible for any of you reading this to be more proud, you might possibly burst—be forewarned.

We hope that the start of the holiday season back home was a great one. We celebrated Thanksgiving in true style. The best plastic china was brought out and everyone practiced, if only for one meal, perfect table manners. There was much to be thankful for this year. First, we are all thankful for your continued love and support. All of us appreciate it wholeheartedly, and send a heartfelt thank you. We are also thankful for the mission success we have enjoyed and assure everyone that it will continue. We are also thankful that we are lucky enough to wear the flag of the United States on our shoulders. Each day has constant reminders of just how lucky each of us truly is. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we are thankful that we will probably be home soon enough to celebrate some of the holiday season with you all back home. Until we are back, it is no secret that mail call is still the highlight of any day. It would be impossible for us to explain how much your support, prayers, and

love from home fuel us.

On that note, a special thank you to **Mrs. Cindy Love, 1SG Love's** incredible wife, and our FRG leader, as well as the other wonderful wives of the FRG. Your incredible work has been impressive and truly appreciated. Here is where we will insert a cheap advertisement for the Gator T-Shirts, Calendars, and homecoming CDs. Only twenty days of shopping left. What Alpha Gator fan wouldn't want a Gator T-Shirt in their stocking? We will also accept orders from other companies as well.

Just as the mail flow has not ceased, neither has the hard work of the Gators in providing a safe and secure environment for the locals of Tal A'far. Absolutely incredible would be about the only way to describe what each paratrooper accomplishes in any given day. In preparing for the fast approaching National Elections, the Gators continue to patrol the streets, talk with the locals, gain intelligence, and hunt down any terrorists still foolish enough to hang around. Those ill-fated terrorists that are still trying to hide in our backyard are proof of Darwin's Survival of the Fittest theory; they are becoming extinct. Each day not only brings us closer to you all at home, but each patrol brings Iraq and the locals of Tal A'far a step closer to a great future. It is an incredible feeling knowing that daily we are carving out a future that was once only a dream.



During our daily patrols we are seeing the faces of change and the evident progress that we are working towards. We see it in the reemerging economy, although Iraq is still a long ways from Super Wal-Mart. It is evident in the amount of locals that wave, smile, and talk with us; sometimes to much. And most importantly it is obvious in the amount of kids who come out and play and go to school. It is hard to imagine that a game of soccer in our sector was once to dangerous to play because of the terrorists we have strived to capture—and succeeded in capturing. They do not discriminate while conducting their cowardly attacks. The future of Iraq is indeed bright because of the hard work of these fine Paratroopers.

*Each and every Trooper in the Company continues to push hard to continue to help and brighten the future of Iraq "*



Another large part in preparing for the elections is us continuing to train and conduct joint patrols with the Iraqi Army and new Iraqi Police force. Since the Gators do not have a sister Iraqi Army Company, we have partnered up with the Iraqi Police. Through combined hard-work, dedication, and a lot of patience, the new Iraqi Police Force has remarkably improved. Continue to watch FOX cable channel and you may see a special episode of COPS in Tal A'far, guest starring the mighty Gators of Alpha Company.

The Paratroopers of the Company also continue to demonstrate the agility and flexibility that gives them the name "America's Guard of Honor." It is simply not enough for these men to bulldoze cultural barriers to provide aid, security, and hope to the locals of our sector while capturing known terrorists, but in an attempt to find a better vacation spot than Tal A'far,



Alpha Company has temporarily packed up and conducted operations in other areas. Twice, the Company has been sent to conduct operations in other parts of Tal A'far and for a few days also headed east towards Mosul, alas our search for future vacation spots continues. Each mission conducted, be it in our habitual sector, next door, or thirty kilometers away, the result remains the same, absolute success.

Writing history is an extremely time consuming and tiring task; therefore, it is not that big a deal to us that the pool remains closed. Thankfully though, **1SG Love's** "jail-style" gym is open twenty four seven and it is an all weather gym. Since our last update, the gym has grown in size and use. I think there are just so many twinkies one can eat before enough becomes enough. **SSG Reggie Fox, PFC Brint Abernathy, SPC Nathan Baldwin,** and one of our Sappers, **PFC Haywood,** have all joined the very impressive three

hundred club. The DVD collection continues to grow as well. All in all, while not out in sector, the men of Alpha continue to keep busy, some will even convince you that sleeping can be a competitive sport.

The Oil for the Gator machine, the Headquarters Platoon, still continues to keep everything running like a fine tuned machine. In between the long hours monitoring the radios and mail call runs, newly promoted **SPC Josh Snodgrass** put aside his jester duties and re-enlisted to stay at Ft Bragg for five more years. **SGT Matt Brooks** took over for **SGT Allen Wiggins** as the communications chief because SGT Wiggins redeployed for school. Hopefully he is tied up changing diapers as promised.





**SSG Louis Maldonado**, the Mortar Section Sergeant, sends his son **Abner**, a happy 5th birthday and says no pony, but he will buy him a new car when he turns sixteen. (**Abner**, keep this letter.) **SSG Maldonado's** right hand man, **SGT Rob Bradshaw** and the mortar's combat photographer, **SPC Matthew Morris**, celebrated birthdays in November. In between missions, the entire Mortar Section conducted an absolutely incredible mortar shoot, demonstrating extremely lethal and effective fires. One great thing about Iraq, with all the desert, there is no lack of training and impact area. The mortars said goodbye to **PFC Justin Bowman** earlier this month, who joined the Battalion 81mm Mortar Platoon, and welcomed **SPC Ulloa**. **SSG Maldonado** was also able to finagle two future first round draft picks as well. Last, the Mortars and the entire Company want **PFC Ron "Fragile Rock" Fregolle** to know that we are all thinking about him and praying for him. We all look forward to having him return to the team real soon.



Its been nearly three months and the men of First Platoon are still going strong. While they prepare to close this chapter in the Iraq history book and keep their attention on the matters at hand, being the "in touch with feelings platoon" this month, they want to really

ensure everyone knows their hearts are with you all at home. First Platoon, still under the leadership of **1LT Romas Zimlicki**, and **SSG Keith "Still too Tall" Callahan** are performing superbly. First Platoon Weapons Squad Leader, **SSG Garrett Brunton**, headed home for school early November and **SPC Kyle "Why am I Weasel" Cardenas** stepped up as Weapons Squad Leader. While **SSG Brunton** is missed, **SPC Cardenas** has performed remarkably as a young squad leader and is just yet another example of why the Gator Team is so great. The additional duties of all around fixer have fallen to newly promoted **SPC Kenneth Kirchgessner**, and the platoon still

continues to search for a new master driver. It is definitely a good thing that the Gators are light Infantry and First Platoon does not drive much. **David Rouse** and **Nathan Edwards** were promoted this month to Sergeant. Both of these awesome Paratroopers were absolutely deserving of it, although it was probably the first time a non-airborne person has been promoted to Sergeant in the 82nd. **SGT Edwards** joined the Company just prior to deployment and did not even have a chance for Airborne school before. He says he is anxious to get his wings though when we return.



**SGT Benjamin Morvec** was also promoted to Sergeant.

First Platoon is thankful that the new rank has not changed him too much, and he continues to keep the Platoon entertained with his own "smart brand" of humor. He would also like to say "Hi" to his wife and ask her how the car is doing (in that order too). **SGT Buddy "BUD TUCK" Tucker**, wants to let his wife know congrats on the "MOM TAB" and with that award, her promotion is fast approaching.

*"Through combined hard-  
work, dedication, and a lot of patience,  
the new Iraqi Police  
Force has remarkably improved"*





Second Platoon, who recently returned from their extended block leave at Camp Sykes, reports all continues to go well with them. They had an extended stay at the main operating base due to rain, yes rain in the desert, closing the Battalion's routes in and out. While they will tell you they just couldn't wait to get back to COP Gator, other sources report they were doing the rain dance back at Sykes. Either way, they have returned and have not missed a beat. They continue to "get at it" and "get at it good."

Since the last update, **SSG Troy Banks's** daughter, Emily, graduated past first teeth and took her first steps. **SSG Banks** sends his assurances that he will be home in time for Emily's first marathon.

**PFC Burim Dragaquina** continues to impress both the entire Company and the locals we are helping with his ability to speak Arabic. He taught himself the language in only a few months and not only has this skill proven to be vital with operations, it is also always good for a laugh to see the locals look of shock when he acts as the interpreter. **PFC Mark Hayes** and **PV2 Hugo "Just Santos" Veneriosantos** both took a trip to Baghdad to complete their U.S. citizenship packets. It is very interesting and different that their citizenship paperwork will have the Baghdad APO on it. Lastly, special birthday wishes to **PFC Brandon Parker**, **Brandon O'Brien**, **PFC Shane Heath**, and **SPC Michael Hammer**. These are the birthday that are never forgotten.

*"The future of Iraq is indeed bright because of the hard work of these fine Paratroopers"*



**SGT Dennis "Harmonica" Penasa**, wanting to ensure he stays in his parents' good graces, would like to send his dad happy birthday wishes. He wants to know if the package arrived, if not, it is in the mail. Not wanting to be outdone for number one child privileges, **PFC Jon Morgan** sends an early Happy Anniversary to his parents. **CPL Christian Soliata** sends Happy 3rd birthday wishes to his son. Finally, **SGT Simon Miguel** sends sincere Happy FIRST Anniversary wishes to his wife Cynthia and also says thank you. Second Platoon is certainly the thoughtful one.

Second Platoon's Platoon Leader, **Brian Barnett**, shed his gold bar and was promoted to First Lieutenant, he was properly congratulated by the entire platoon. **CPL Christian "NYPD" Weick**, was promoted to Sergeant and **Jeffrey Darling** was promoted to Specialist and celebrated a birthday, all very deserving promotions.

Third Platoon wants everyone to know that "it has been a time of great accomplishment" since the last update. They report that foremost was the successful celebration of Halloween. While it was reported that the Gators were passing on trick or treating this year, Third Platoon did have a costume contest. There were many creative costumes to include a "soldier", a "paratrooper", and an "Airborne Infantryman." While all costumes were very authentic, the winner this year was the Platoon Leader, **1LT Adam "Country 6" Cecil**, as a princess.

Not only has Third Platoon been busy bringing stability to our sector, they have been busy celebrating the most birthdays. **PFC Nathan Shambo**, **PFC Daniel Reynolds**, and **SPC Kyle Nagel** all celebrated birthdays; 28, 20, and 24 respectively. **SGT Stoll** was able to demonstrate a natural ability to fly helicopters when he re-enlisted for an additional three years. He took a ride in an OH-58D and actually flew for a few minutes when the pilot got out checking the rotor blades. **George Demayo** was promoted to Staff Sergeant and **Elliot Perry** finally lost his mosquito wings and was promoted to Private First Class. Again, two very deserving promotions. Finally, joining **PFC Hayes** and **PV2 Santos** in Baghdad for citizenship was Third Platoon veteran **SPC Leonardo Beltran**.

Brief update from last newsletter: The International Horseshoe Committee found that the Platoon Leader/Platoon Sergeant team did cheat and has hence been stripped of their Horseshoe Champs Crown. **SGT "Dash" Stachler** and crew have not yet been able to find redemption on the soccer field but Third Platoon has found a few new ways to pass free time. On a bit of a side note, **SFC Jonathon Nelson** wants to remind his son that he can not leave high school early to join the NFL. In between soccer games and costume contests, Third Platoon refuses to tire and continues to push hard to the end, all the while "looking forward to being home."

*"There were many creative costumes to include a 'soldier', a 'paratrooper', and an 'Airborne Infantryman.'"*

Finally, we have a brief report on the "special teams' crew" of the Gator Team. First, our Sappers report that the late nights of emplacing barriers is overshadowed by making funny videos. If Iraq had an Iraq's Funniest Home Videos, the sappers would definitely walk away with 10,000,000,000 dinars. While the Sappers keep their morale high by making funny videos, the Scouts report that their morale is high just because they love their jobs. **SGT Omar Logue**, the scouts in house encyclopedia moved over to C Company's team and **SGT Jason Cabrera** slid over from A Company to the Scouts, so he did not have far to go. The Fire Support team continues to join the men of Alpha on every patrol. The team leader, **1LT Jason "best FSO in division" Turner**, joined LT Barnett in shedding his gold bar and pinned on First Lieutenant. Team Sergeant, **SSG William "talks a lot" Endl**, keeps the men sharp and trained with his pop quizzes. He also remains ahead in the race to be the oldest in the Company when he celebrated his 42nd birthday. Kidding. Like the rest of the Gators, these incredible Paratroopers are looking forward to coming home soon.

That's about it from this end. We hope and pray that all continues to go well back home. "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas" is a popular song over here, and while we are still uncertain of the exact date, we believe that if you leave the trees up, we will be home before all the needles fall off. This year it is safe to keep the artificial tree in the box. We still have one last chapter to write in this part of history and we will

remain focused on the upcoming elections. We know with your continued support and prayers, the outcome this time will be no different than the last two elections the Gators were called upon to support, and as soon as the mission is complete, we will all be together again in the States. One last heartfelt Thank You to everyone for the next ones will be in person. God Bless.

The Paratroopers of Alpha Company





# BRAVO COMPANY

"BULLDOGS"

Season's Greetings to all Bravo Company Family and Friends,

As another month passes it is once again my great pleasure to write everyone not just another Bravo Bulldog FRG Newsletter, but the final newsletter. Before I go into the big events, you will probably notice that this newsletter is a little different than the others. This month, each platoon has an opportunity to fill you in on what's going on. Once again, our hard work is making time fly by.

I really should start off by mentioning that just four days ago, we received box after box of Christmas Stockings and Santa Hats! Thank You! Believe it or not, there are several of us who throw the Santa Hats on immediately after getting off patrol, and the closer we get to the big day, the more we are wearing them. Another thanks too for the beautiful Christmas cards sent both in the mail and in the wonderful slide show.



Hopefully everyone received my email from a couple of weeks ago, mentioning that we have found ourselves a new and better place to live. After the Constitutional Referendum, we moved out of the school house and into an abandoned neighborhood block of houses. Once again our Engineer Squad, led by Sergeant Joey Paladino, was tasked with setting in security measures. While they had to work for countless hours, they have ensured that, without a doubt, we have the best security in the Task Force yet again.



*"The Three Amigos"*

Of course, the longer Bravo Company owns the streets, the greater this war-torn town becomes. Besides hunting the enemy, your sons and husbands are also working extremely hard working a major humanitarian mission too. Believe it or not, the Iraqi Transitional Government gave the city of Tal Afar



money to compensate for the damage and neglect the city has received for the past twenty years.

Upon receiving this money, the Mayor decided to turn this money around and give it directly to the people. To facilitate this money distribution, our company spent four days total securing the distribution site and tracking the people

going through. Even though it was a Company effort, special recognition should go to the following Paratroopers who spent countless hours screening





For over half this deployment, our company was the only company required to provide a squad whose main purpose was to train newly recruited Iraqi Police. An important detail for this mission was that this squad would have to work completely independent from the rest of the Task Force, very far from Tal A'far. Not only that, but for each new Iraqi Police class rotating through, they would have to train over 150 policemen at a time! With a requirement such as this, we had to ensure this element was capable of providing the leadership, competence, and professionalism these new recruits deserved. Special recognition should go to the following group of men:

well over 4,000 people going through this distribution station:

Staff Sergeant Richard Page  
Sergeant Shawn Puckett  
Corporal Robert Hayes  
Specialist Scott Winslow  
Specialist Isaiah Naylor  
Specialist Matt Lindell  
Private First Class West Bard  
Private First Class John Gundlach  
Private First Class Charles Tisdale  
Private First Class David Blythe  
Private George Cannon  
Private Ian Lavallee

Staff Sergeant Jerry Potts  
Sergeant Rafael Rodriguez  
Specialist Joshua Dover  
Private First Class Joshua Messner  
Private Brent Rowland  
Private First Class Michael Ortiz  
Private Robert Ruiz  
Private First Class Alex Patterson

As I type this newsletter, these men still continue to train the new Iraqi Police recruits. Keep up the great work!

The platoon leaders will follow with the news from their platoons, especially with the promotions and re-enlistments. Before we move on though, I would like to tell two of the platoon leaders congratulations for their promotions from Second Lieutenant to First Lieutenant. Both Brian Forester and Brian Montgomery



recently joined the Bravo Company Team just a half year ago. In a very short time, these two ranger-qualified officers led their platoons through a very in-





tense training cycle back in the States, fully preparing them for the challenges they face today. The Bravo Company Team is more than fortunate to have these two outstanding men lead their paratroopers. Congratulations Lieutenants Forester and Montgomery!

#### FIRST PLATOON: First Lieutenant Michael Sander

First Platoon once again sends it greetings from across the globe. We are all doing well, working hard and missing you. Thanksgiving was not the same without family close by, but most of us still had our fill of turkey and most of the usual trimmings. First platoon continues to keep our Army strong and powerful as we have had many promotions and reenlistments. Among those promoted we congratulate: Specialists Ronald Choo, Curtis Kingery, Justin Matthews, Joseph Sisto, Private First Class Adam Huffman, Neto Ceballos, Ian Lavallee, and last but not least, Thomas Zavo. Sergeant Shawn Puckett passed his promotion board and is expecting his new Staff Sergeant rank any day and Specialist Stefan Howard is preparing for his promotion board in the first week of December. Sergeants Jesse Benskin, Brandon Curran, and Specialist Ronald Choo all reenlisted and received their tax free bonus for making the decision overseas. Sergeant Curran decided to serve the Army for another six years, Specialist Choo reenlisted for five years, and Sergeant Benskin will be with us for another four. Among the three, Specialist Choo seems to be the happiest as he will be moving to Hawaii and will be closer to his

family. We would like to thank Private First Class Derek Weida's family for giving us a taste of Christmas a little early. We are all properly outfitted in true Army fashion with matching Santa Clause hats and red stockings. Thank you all for your love and support. We look forward to being together soon.

*"Besides hunting the enemy, your sons and husbands are also working extremely hard working a major humanitarian mission"*

#### SECOND PLATOON: First Lieutenant Brian Forester

November has been an eventful month for Second Platoon. It started off with a move to our new home at COP White Falcon. Moving here has brought a certain increase in the comfort level, to include periodic electricity. Second Platoon has participated in numerous key events for the company this month to include the distribution of blankets and radios to the people of Tal A'far. Additionally, Corporal Robert Hayes, Private First Class Charles Tisdale, Specialists Scott Winslow, and Isaiah Naylor were instrumental in helping distribute money to the families of Tal A'far. Each squad has enjoyed the opportunities to get back to FOB Sykes periodically to enjoy some good meals and call home to family and friends. Second Platoon has also welcomed a new soldier by the name of





Specialist Angel Hernandez who joined us at the end of the month. We also celebrated the reenlistment of Specialist Charles White. On December 1st, the platoon will celebrate with Corporal Robert Hayes as he gets promoted to Sergeant.



### THIRD PLATOON: First Lieutenant Brian Montgomery

Seasons Greetings from Third Platoon, Bravo Company! The men of third platoon have been busy the past month with several operations. This is great news for two reasons; first, we are keeping the streets of Tal Afar safe by eliminating those who wish harm on the people, and second, it has allowed the time to fly by as we count down the days until we rejoin our loved ones back home. We recently celebrated Thanksgiving with an afternoon meal, and reflected on all the things we

are thankful for and blessed with. The Paratroopers of Third Platoon have Received many packages from loved ones Back in the States. Everyone here sends a huge Thank you! The packages keep our spirits high, and our stomachs full! We received our Christmas



Hats from FRG—they were a huge hit! Even though it doesn't seem like the holidays because the weather is warm, inside third platoon buildings it was Christmas

*"We received our Christmas Stockings and Santa Hats from FRG—they were a huge hit!"*

in November has everyone was wearing Santa Hats and tearing through their gifts.

We recently sent four outstanding soldiers to the November promotions board. Sergeant Brandon Woolley sailed through his promotion board with ease while Specialists Matt Lindell, Juan Guzman, and Daniel Kasza all excelled in their sergeant promotion boards. Specialists Lindell, Guzman, and Kasza are now leading Fire Teams in first, second, and third squads respectively. All four newly promotable Paratroopers are looking forward to pinning on their new rank. Private First Class Colin Percy is eagerly waiting for the first of December; he will be promoted to Specialist for his hard work as platoon RTO (Radio Telephone Operator). We are also excited to have two new Paratroopers in the Platoon. Specialist Cody Lambert joins us from Delta Company, and Private Justin Hovatter has joined us straight from Airborne School.



Sergeant First Class Byrd and I would like to extend our welcomes to the families of the newest members of Third Platoon.

In closing, we would like to send our prayers, thanks, and love to the Wives, Girlfriends, Children, and Families back home. Happy Holidays and we will see you soon!

Sincerely,  
Captain Michael J. Browning



# CHARLIE COMPANY

"COBRAS"

## Dear Family and Friends of Charlie Company

Soon, we will stop all combat operations and start preparing for redeployment back home. We are currently focused on setting the conditions for a successful Iraqi Election on December 15th. As our time here winds down, we are very excited to complete our mission and return back to our loved ones at home, just in time for the beginning of a new year. As soon as we learn our exact flight dates and times I will contact Debbie Cavazos and she will send that information out to the Family Readiness Group. The Paratroopers in Charlie Company were extremely successful during November.



Although we still live in the same abandoned, Iraqi high school that we moved into during September, the city around us has changed considerably. When we first arrived, the city of Tal A'far was very dangerous. The markets and schools were closed, there were no job opportunities, most of the buildings were riddled with bullet holes, and terrorists controlled the Iraqi civilians with fear and intimidation. Now Tal A'far is a very different place. In the last month Charlie Company has captured dozens of terrorists, opened five schools, found numerous enemy weapon and ammunition caches, and trained the Iraqi Army. I am amazed at the competence that our Paratrooper's exhibit on a daily basis. All three Platoons, the Company Headquarters, the Fire Support Team, the Scout Team, the Company Mortars, and the Engineers form a cohesive team ready to accomplish any mission.



Third Platoon started off the month right by successfully conducting an operation to distribute money to every single Iraqi household in the eastern portion of Tal A'far. The money distribution was a plan initiated by the Iraqi Government to compensate civilians in Tal A'far for the hardship they endured under the heavy hand of insurgents. 1LT Mike Syvertsen and SFC Horn worked with a Platoon of Iraqi soldiers and 25 Iraqi

Policemen. Over the course of the three-day operation, the men of Third Platoon distributed money to over 3,800 Iraqi families. All four Squad Leaders – SSG Frederick Wilson, SSG Eric Bullard, SSG Jordan Carlson, and SGT Raymond Ysasaga – stepped up to the challenge and demonstrated remarkable flexibility throughout the mission. I was personally impressed at the strong performance of PVT Adam Farmer, SGT Derek Madigan, SGT Benjamin Hubka, and SPC Rockford Miller.





It is not uncommon to see one of our medics digging up a cache, helping clear a house, or processing detainees. They are an invaluable asset to our Company team. The Charlie Company Fire Support Team controls Kiowa Warrior and Apache Helicopters on all of our combat missions. On one night raid, SGT Daniel Froerer helped control a Kiowa Warrior that directly contributed to a successful of our Company mission. 2LT Nathan Kish has been wearing two hats throughout this deployment. Not only is he the Company Fire Support Officer but he is also the Company Information Operations Officer. He controlled the dissemination and distribution of posters, flyers, information cards, and Humanitarian Aid to thousands of Iraqi's throughout Tal A'far. Nate's hard work helped Coalition Forces isolate the enemy and develop rapport with the Iraqi citizens.



Last but certainly not least, our Scout Team continues to be a strong asset to the Company. SSG Daniel Casillas led the team during the first two months and was recently promoted to Scout Platoon Sergeant. His performance throughout this deployment was outstanding and he will be sorely missed by Charlie Company. Stepping up into the Scout Squad Leader role is newly promoted, SSG Brandon Sipp. He immediately demonstrated his competence during a recent scout mission and we expect great things from him in the future. SGT Jesse Johnston, SGT Omar Logue, SPC Justin Holt, PFC Michael Knox, and PFC Joseph Aguirre will make his job easy. This month we had the opportunity to promote some great paratroopers. Third Platoon Leader, Mike Syvertsen, got rid of his butter bars and was promoted to First Lieutenant. Jordan Carlson, Steven Denton, and Ryan Hanes were promoted to Staff Sergeant.



*"As our time here winds down,  
we are very excited to complete  
our mission and return back to  
our loved ones at home"*

Michael Arnold, Kevin Alderman, Carlos Gonzalez, Daniel Lewis, Geoffrey Edwards, and Benjamin Hubka were promoted to Sergeant. Cory Stewart, Rockford Miller, Joshua Bradley, Brandon Woodard, and Freddy Cordova were promoted to Specialist. Charles Stack, Joseph Vanek, and Matthew Brito were promoted to Private First Class. Congratulations to each of these Paratroopers and their families! Of course I would be remiss if I didn't mention all the birthdays in November. Congratulations to PFC Raymond Prince, SGT Andrew Vanhorn, PFC Aaron Muerter, PVT Luis Vazquez, PFC Donald Bennett, PFC Seth Carter, SPC Jacob Gale, SSG Haven Crecelius, PFC Chayse Santos, SPC Cory Stewart, SSG Vincent Worrell, PFC Bryan Lovejoy, and SFC Steven Horn. A couple of weeks ago we received five new Paratroopers. We are excited to welcome these young Paratroopers to Charlie Company! PFC Adam Pellegrine is in First Platoon, PFC Edward Jervis and PFC Cleavon Whittington are in Second Platoon, and PFC Bryan Lovejoy and PFC Nathan Stewart are in Third Platoon. Congratulations to SGT Amaurys Rapozomeran, SPC Greg Palush, and their families for reenlisting!



Second Platoon kept up the momentum by developing intelligence that led to the successful capture of eight major insurgents operating in Tal A'far. Under the strong leadership of 1LT Neil Holenbeck and SSG (P) Steven Llacuna, Second Platoon worked hand-in-hand with First Platoon to execute a raid on multiple houses.



Not only did they capture insurgents but they also found a weapons cache and information that led to the capture of more terrorists in the following days. SGT Brett McElfresh, PFC Kenneth Spalding, and CPL William Jablonski are just a couple of the many strong performers that night. SSG Vincent Worrell and PFC Donald Bennett will be awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained from an IED attack on November 6th. PFC Bennett received minor injuries and was back with Second Platoon within a week. SSG Worrell's wounds were more serious but he is in excellent condition with his wife Jamie at home right now and he will be starting college in January. Both Paratroopers are true warriors!



First Platoon, ensuring that they would not be left out of the team effort, executed raids to capture two of the top 15 most wanted terrorists in Tal A'far. 1LT Jim Lally created a strong plan that SFC Santos Cavazos, SGT Timothy Brewster, SSG Chad Megginson, SSG Rhyan Syester, and SSG Steven Denton executed brilliantly. The end result was the successful capture of two of the most influential terrorists in the city. During both raids

PFC Benjamin Wilkins, SGT Michael Arnold, and PFC Seth Carter set the standard for Paratroopers in combat.

In mid-November, Major General Rodriguez, the Task Force Freedom Commander, had the opportunity to visit and spend some time with Charlie Company. General Rodriguez received a briefing from the Platoon Leaders and myself, spoke with a number of Paratroopers in the Company, and went on a dismounted patrol with Second Platoon. General Rodriguez was extremely impressed with the Company, and he expressed heartfelt thanks for our effort in Iraq.

On Thanksgiving Day we were fortunate enough to have a large dinner delivered to us. We had turkey, ham, roast beef, mashed potatoes, pasta salad, and a cake. The officers and senior NCO's served the food to the entire Company. First Sergeant Steven Allen yelled at 1LT Jon Westbrook and me for the unusually large portions of food that we were giving out to the men! Although we still conducted combat missions throughout the day, our thoughts were with our families back home.



*"We had turkey, ham, roast beef,  
mashed potatoes, pasta salad, and  
a cake"*

We will never forget the unbelievable performance of our various attachments in November. SGT Eduardo Ojeda led his Engineer Squad on an out-of-sector mission with Second Platoon to search for a buried enemy Improvised Explosive Device (IED) cache. After assisting Second Platoon with a raid on a house, SGT Eduardo Ojeda, SGT Dustin Cospers, SPC William Sloop, and PV2 Miguel Marquez discovered a monumental enemy cache of artillery rounds that the enemy planned to use to make

IED's. There is no doubt in my mind that their actions that night significantly improved the safety and security of the citizens of Tal A'far. Our Company medics – SPC Phillip Saavedrea, SPC Jesse Clark, SPC Emmanuel Ceballos, and PVT Jordon Bond – continue to provide excellent medical care to local Iraqi civilians and the entire company. Everyday I am amazed at the ability of the medics to not only provide medical care for our troopers, but also to assist each of the Platoon's in different ways.



A couple of Paratroopers wanted me to mention a few "shout-outs." PFC Sam Strassener says hello to his family. PFC Charles Stack would like to wish his family and nephew Carson a Merry Christmas. SSG Crecilius wishes Happy Holidays to his wife, Jessie, and his girls, Brooklyn and Khloe. PFC Ashelee Bohnert wishes his wife a happy wedding anniversary. PFC Areyu Ross sends his love to his beautiful wife, Ashley. SSG (P) Steven Llacuna says hello and sends his love to Carmen, Caton, and Miles.



SPC Eric Sanchez says hello and Happy Holidays to his whole family. SSG Rhyan Syester wishes Happy Birthday to his five-year-old daughter, Emma. On behalf of the Paratrooper's in Charlie Company, I would like to wish all of you a Happy Holidays! We look forward to getting home and spending time with you soon. As soon as I know flight dates and times I will immediately send them to Debbie Cavazos. Take care and God Bless!

CPT Andrew Gallo

*"I am amazed at the competence that our Paratrooper's exhibit on a daily basis"*





# DELTA COMPANY

## "DESTROYER"

Families and friends,

In the last newsletter the concerns were being able to see football and making a hot shower. The shower situation is taken care of. The battalion purchased an inflatable shower and has a water heater that connects to one of our trucks and in ten minutes we have steaming hot water. The shower is near third platoon so 1SG Nowak gave them the responsibility of maintaining it. I found out the hard way that the greatest hazard with that set up is being attacked with ice water while taking a shower. (I know it was you Dameworth!) I do not know exactly how it works but SGT Willis (affectionately known as "Delta Willis") was adopted by D CO from HHC and operates his vehicle maintenance section out of our company area. He has contributed immensely to the battalion in many ways but most notably to D CO by building the shower and also wiring all six buildings to a generator, so Delta Willis is making many friends in our area. As for football, we may have to wait until we get home but that is not as far off as we initially expected. There are no changes on our arrival dates from LTC Gibson's letter that was sent to all families. We should be home just after Christmas. With that possibility we can wait on football.

The headquarters platoon is doing well. PFC Espinoza



has not shot rockets and probably will not shoot rockets but enjoys spending time with second platoon and harassing CPT Taylor (many people actually enjoy harassing CPT Taylor). SGT Tiapula keeps comm-

unications equipment operating. SSG Gant is doing well mentoring PFC Espinoza and keeping me out of trouble on the streets. SPC Baker is my gunner. While he is a man of very few words he is an incredible shot with the 50 caliber machine gun and as the company armor can work magic fixing what our guys break. SPC Holybee is pulling his weight as an RTO and augments the platoons when they need additional personnel.



*"Our unique personalities and backgrounds truly work well together and create this awesome machine"*

When he is not sleeping he spends his days eating ramen, reading mountain bike magazines, and playing with his "new" camping stove. He has proven to be a very versatile soldier in the HQ platoon. SPC Nash is doing a great job as the company medic keeping us all healthy. We all know that "washing our hands with soap and water is imperative" and that "hand sanitizer alone is not enough"...thanks Doc. SPC Grimaldo, WOW. I don't know where to begin. First of all, he went to the Sergeant board and soon will be wearing the stripes of a noncommissioned officer. He is ready for the challenge but I don't know if the rest of the Army is ready for SGT Grimaldo. In the meantime, he constantly harasses everyone to include me. Jenny Grimaldo, you poor woman...our sympathy goes out to you.

As always, I hope this finds you all safe this holiday season. You all can be very proud of your men they are working hard and making a difference. We are counting the days until we can meet at Green Ramp!

Sincerely,  
CPT Joe Blanton



## AT1

Hello friends and family of AT-1!!! Well, this could very well be the final installment of the platoon newsletter! I know you are all greatly saddened by this news. However, the prospect of having your loved one back earlier than expect should more than compensate! In case you haven't heard the great news, our request to move up our redeployment was approved by LTG Vines. Exact dates will be put out through FRG channels. This is indeed great news and it was met with much excitement and joy here at COP Destroyer! In fact, I even think SGT Ellis was in a good mood for a change! I have several highlights since our last newsletter to cover.



However, the most significant is PV2 Brown's discovery of a substantially sized Improvised Explosive Device (IED). Although PV2 Brown is a new addition to the platoon, he has already made huge in roads with regards to respect in

the platoon and his competence on the job. This is but one example of the great things your paratroopers are doing here in Iraq! Well done PV2 Brown, we are all proud of you! PFC Perkins, and PFC Salmeron have also made great contributions to date. Not too long ago, I discovered PFC Salmeron helping out in the turret while leaving the driving to another soldier. I was surprised to see this since the gunner job is usually left to more experienced soldiers. However, SSG East and SGT Ellis, the two Non-Commissioned Officers who are responsible for him assured me that he was more than up to the task!

*"There is no doubt in my mind that their actions that night significantly improved the safety and security of the citizens of Tal Afar"*

Indeed he was! PFC Perkins another new soldier has gained much admiration in the platoon for his vast hunting and fishing knowledge, and it is these topics which have spurred endless conversations, and sometimes arguments, between SGT Ellis and PFC



Perkins! PFC Donahue has been spectacular this deployment in every possible facet. His vast experience in Iraq from previous deployments and his knowledge of radios keeps the platoon running and, although he doesn't realize it, he is an extremely valuable asset to this platoon. I have been very fortunate to have him as my driver and RTO (radio guy). In noting outstanding soldiers, it would be impossible not to mention Cartwright, arguably one of the hardest working soldiers in the company and battalion. He deserves congratulatory comments from all for his dedication in difficult and trying circumstances. SPC Harrington, one of the most popular soldiers in the platoon has also flourished during this deployment. He continues to keep the platoon entertained with his James Bond accent and his interestingly, albeit utterly useless, knowledge of historical facts (this guy needs his own talk show



on the history channel, no really, I'm being serious). One thing that I and all the leaders in the platoon appreciate most about Harrington is his discerning perspective and always novel ideas in doing things. It's been on more than one occasion that we've utilized his insightful comments to better our operations here.





SGT LaFreniere (future CEO of Jake's Junk), is a new addition to the platoon, although he's been in the company for some time now. We are very fortunate to have him as he is truly one of the outstanding Non-Commissioned Officers in the company. In mentioning SGT LaFreniere, it would be impossible not to mention his head of advertising, SPC Durtche, who has been dominating the Nam ball games but would still be put in his place by Cartwright I'm told. SSG Mazuela, an important fixture in the platoon because of his experience and the confidence he commands within the ranks, has been hopelessly excited about his baby boy who will be brought into the world by his lovely wife Misti sometime in early 2006! We are all excited for them both and we all look forward to greeting "little Jorgito" (that's not his real name) for the first time very soon! The only thing that we all ask is that his middle name be "Wiley" after that great legendary and awesomely dangerous Officer who fought so gallantly in the Middle East!



SSG East, whose antics and plays deserve their own newsletter, has been doing great! He finally won the World Series on his Play-station portable. However, I did not congratulate him since he chose to utilize the NY Yankees in doing so. Of course we all know that the NY Yankees, a team whose level of disappointment this season can only be surpassed by it's excessively high and obviously frivolous payroll, hasn't won a world series in four years. However, the Boston Red Sox, a team built on hard work, sacrifice, and good old fashion sportsmanship, will continue to prosper in years to come! Oh yeah, as of this writing (Nov 25) the Washington Redskins have a losing record this season...



Well, that about wraps this newsletter up. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts in prayers as we do the same at our end and we complete our very important mission here in Iraq. I, as well as all the Paratroopers of 1st platoon eagerly await our return stateside to loved ones and friends. This last sentence pretty much sums it up. We love you, we miss you, and we'll see you soon!!!

*We love you, we miss you, and  
we'll see you soon!!!*





SPC Beau Buri and PFC Sean Marshall have been in a competition to see which one could snore the loudest while the platoon has been hiding in surveillance positions. 1LT Joseph Miller spent two days training the Iraqi Army and another four days recovering from a bout of sickness triggered by eating some of their flat bread. PFC Shawn Beach, PVT Travis Carney and PVT Trenton Petty have spent a great deal of time on the company's new weight set, struggling daily to prove the stories they told the girls at

## AT2

The last month has kept Second Platoon extremely busy. SPC Patrick Donlan, PFC Michael Tardie and PFC Chancey Tillery have been extremely excited about getting out of their trucks and onto their feet for dismounted missions. To quote PFC Chancey Tillery "I love every thing about being dismounted, I love kicking in doors and clearing houses. That's what I joined the Army to do!" SSG Jon Cobb, SSG Tyler Harper and SGT Jason Warner spent a lot of their time and effort mentoring and preparing CPL James Price for his promotion board (too bad he's still not a qualified Jumpmaster!). SGT Richard Ford, SPC Anthony Coor and PVT Jose Campos enjoyed their first outing in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, or as PVT Campos liked to call it, "a Tank ride."



*"I love every thing about being dismounted. . . That's what I joined the Army to do!"*



home about their sculpted bodies. Overall, spirits are high and the guys are as motivated as they were on day one of this deployment. Thanksgiving dinner was delivered to us by our buddies in 3rd Platoon as we sat in our "covert, 30-degrees-below-zero, cinder block holiday hangout" overwatching a particular area of interest within the Battalion sector. Not exactly as cozy as spending it with our loved ones, but you'd be surprised how "cozy" SGT Warner can get when he's cold and hungry. Once again, thank you for all the support you've given to the Soldiers of 2nd Platoon and look forward to our return over the holiday season. We certainly do.



### AT3

Good news everyone. This could possibly be our last news letter of the deployment. There are no changes for our arrival dates. This welcomed news to your Paratroopers. They have definitely enjoyed knowing that they will be able to return home and see their loved ones again. Along with the few short weeks left in this deployment, morale has been strengthened with the additions of the new showers, that are available right here in the COP, as well as the wonderful care packages that you wonderful people have been sending from back home. To say the least, this platoon has some of the best group cohesion and esprit de corp of the Battalion, and are truly a band of brothers. Our unique personalities and backgrounds truly work well together and create this awesome machine known as 3rd platoon (Punishers). There have been two birthdays celebrated this month by SPC Velázquez and SGT Webb, who, thankfully, will be able to celebrate belatedly with their families shortly. Just today, we were able to see SPC Blanchard, PFC's Bloomfield, Schaar and Scocos in action with their MK-19, .50 cal, and M240 B machine guns at our range.

The skills, experience and technical knowledge that these soldiers have with their weapons are matched by few soldiers in this battalion and possibly the world. It makes you feel good knowing that these soldiers are in your platoon and on your side. Thanksgiving was celebrated with the traditional holiday feast (with exception to the runny mash potatoes,) which everyone enjoyed, and was able to wash down with some nice sparkling grape juice.



There is also the arrival of myself, 2LT Joe Gradzewicz (hold the applause), who will be replacing the newly promoted CPT Wood. CPT Wood has been sent to the S-1 shop for the new RSTA battalion back at Bragg and should be starting there shortly. I just arrived a few days ago and am currently preparing to finally go on patrol with my platoon. Just to tell you a little about myself, I am originally from Connecticut and was an Army brat growing up. I went to Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island and received a Degree in Marketing with a minor in Anthropology and Sociology. After college, I went from the Officer's Basic Course to Ranger school and fortunately enough, ended up here in 3rd Platoon, Delta Company. It will be a pleasure to meet you all on our return and I thank you for all the support you have shown your Paratroopers here during this deployment.

*"Good news everyone, this could possibly be our last news letter of the deployment"*



## AT4

Wives, parents and friends of AT 4, thank you for your constant support. Like always, we miss you guys and can't wait until we're back with you all. During the last month, AT 4's work load has increased. We are in the final stages of rebuilding the city and Delta Company is playing an important role. We are all working hard to finish the job and come home safely. The Platoon is constantly improving their living conditions. SPC Gimm takes pride and joy in his ideas to add new things to the house.

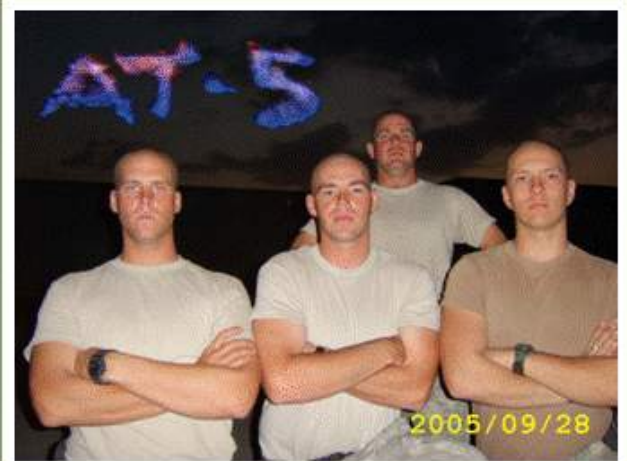


The latest and greatest addition to our "Palace" is our state of the art grill. All the Soldiers contributed in building this new favorite place which is used for cooking and of course staying warm by the fire. PFC Wilkerson and PFC Bennett take great pleasure in using it to cook their precious Ramen Noodles. The Platoon also decided to improve their old observation post on the rooftop of the house. SPC Priest is very proud to say that it now has walls, windows, ceiling, door, and a proper range card. This might not seem like a great accomplishment to some of you back home, but keep in mind that SPC Bermea and PFC Hochenberg and PFC Turnbow ("T-Money") had to fill all the sandbags used and carry them to the roof.



On Thanksgiving Day, we had the nice surprise of a full Thanksgiving dinner served to the Company by all the officers. PFC Schwind ("the old man") had the choice to go for thirds on dinner. We also had the time to train on our backyard range as we fired our MK-19 and .50 cal weapons. Our most memorable time was when SPC Reeser hit one of the targets (about 400 meters away) center mass with the MK-19 on his first shot. Once again, we want to thank all you guys for all the support and of course packages that we have received. All of it means a great deal to us and makes us want to come back home even more.

*"We want to thank all you guys for all the support and of course packages that we have received"*



## AT5

The platoon continues to make the best of their situation being away from home. We thank all the families that sent out the Halloween costumes. SSG Ilg started biting other soldiers with his vampire teeth. As you can see from the picture PFC Marchi was a king, SSG Holt, PFC Hayward, and PFC Wyllie put on their funny glasses and mustaches.



December 1st will be a big day for three members of AT-5. 2LT Gardel will be promoted to 1st Lieutenant, PFC Marchi and PFC Hayward will be promoted to Specialist. 2LT Gardel and SGT Wilson celebrated birthdays in November.



SGT Wilson turned 22 on the 22nd and 2LT Gardel turned 24 on the 26th. SGT Mendez and PFC Ayer will be celebrating birthdays in December. SGT Mendez will turn 21 on the 17th and PFC Ayer will turn 21 on the 20th. PFC Defreese linked up with us in Tal A'far after recovering from a minor surgery. SSG Ilg had some fun playing with the Mortar Platoon. We took a trip out to the open desert to observe the Mortar Platoon test firing their weapons. SSG Ilg was lucky enough to have the opportunity to send a few rounds down range.



*"We had the nice surprise of a full thanksgiving dinner served to the Company by all the officers"*





# HHC COMPANY

"HAMMER"

## Season's Greetings!!

We're into December and counting the days until our redeployment. The Iraqi National Elections on December 15th will prove to be another pivotal moment in Iraq's history. We diligently plan, train, and operate so that we may set the conditions for a successful Election Day. The Battalion has continued to successfully arrest criminals and terrorists, train and conduct joint operations with the Iraqi Security Forces, collect intelligence from the populace, and rebuild the city's infrastructure. In the last month, we have seen numerous shops reopening, electrical transformers and power lines being restored, roads and water lines repaired, and a general sense of purpose and hope return to the townspeople.

The Paratroopers of HHC have worked diligently to insure the Battalion was able to be as successful as it has. Whether it is the cook working as a detainee guard, the scout in a sniper position, the staff member putting the final touches on an Operation's Plan, or the mechanic keeping our vehicles running, everyone has pulled through to insure a smooth deployment.



As you prepare for your Holidays, remember that it is because of your husbands and sons, and thousands like them, that we have the freedoms and lifestyles we do. Our mission in Iraq is important, and every Paratrooper, NCO, and Officer has made a difference to the security and quality of life for the residents of Tal Afar. More importantly, we have taken a safe haven from the insurgents and lessened their ability to operate throughout Iraq ultimately insuring a safer world for us all.



Congratulations to the following HHC Paratroopers who were recently promoted:

PFC Joseph C. Guillot to SPC  
PFC Thomas H. Michta to SPC  
SPC William J. Witt to SGT  
SGT Nicholas D. Cochran to SSG  
SGT Brandon M. Sipp to SSG  
SPC Ivan V. Fore to SGT  
SPC Ryan K. Smith to SGT

Three outstanding NCOs were recently notified that they were selected for E-8:

SFC (P) Tyson Bubnar, Medical Platoon Sergeant  
SFC (P) Brian Meisner, Scout Platoon Sergeant  
SFC (P) Joseph Dilks, Battalion Operations NCO





The following Paratroopers recently celebrated their Birthdays:

SSG Michael Miller	1 Dec
1LT Dan Johnson	2 Dec
SPC Winston Griffin	3 Dec
SPC Daniel Seltzer	3 Dec
PFC Angel Arroyo	5 Dec
SGT Benjamin Jobes	11 Dec
SPC Donald Mag	18 Dec
SGT Marcus Bailly	19 Dec
SPC Cedric Daniels	25 Dec
1LT Sean Summers	25 Dec
SFC Joseph Dilks	28 Dec
1LT Michael Henry	28 Dec
PFC Samuel Roberts	30 Dec
SPC Eric Horton	30 Dec

Below are updates from many of the diverse sections in Headquarters Company. Each section is talented and unique in their given trades.

As we prepare for our return, redeployment information will be sent through official command channels to the HHC FRG Leaders, Key Callers, and our Rear Detachment Commander, Captain Darren Spears. Please be patient and understand that there will be changes. We will provide you updates on our flight information as we receive it.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for the unconditional support you have shown your husbands and sons while we have been deployed. No doubt the separation is difficult. You often sacrifice as much as your loved ones with the difficulties a deployment brings to life back home. Thank you. We look forward to seeing everyone at Green Ramp upon our return.

CPT Ken Burgess and 1SG Jason Wheeler



#### Medical Platoon

Greetings from the White Falcon Medics! The Medical Platoon continues to do great things in the City of Tal A'far and has been crucial to the success of the Battalion. The Aid Station has been busy treating our fellow Paratroopers as well as civilians. Over 200 civilians have been seen with everything from broken bones and severed tendons, to the common cold. Everyone leaves the Aid Station with a smile on their face and their arms full of goodies. The Platoon has also been teaching 1st aid classes to Iraqi Army Soldiers, improving their capabilities as a security force. The line medics with Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta Company are doing a great job of taking care of their guys and keeping them in the fight. They stay busy with daily patrols and making sure the Troopers in their company stay healthy.







When we're not busy working, we pass the time trying to eat all the treats you have sent our way! We all want to thank you for the mail and supplies we have received over the past few months. Getting mail is definitely the highlight of the week for most of us and gives us something to look forward to.

We will be busy over the next few weeks preparing for the December elections and re-deployment after that. The guys are definitely ready to come home and miss you all very much. Thanks again for all of your prayers and support!

1LT Henry and SFC Bubnar

#### Engineer Platoon

The Engineers have been busy assisting the infantry companies by providing them with Combat Engineer capabilities and support. Our Sappers have been instrumental in helping to find several weapons caches, which means a safer environment for both the task force and the citizens of Tal A'far.

In addition to walking patrols with our infantry brothers, we helped Bravo Company move into their new home at outpost White Falcon by emplacing over 60 barriers and 900 meters of protective berm. We are looking forward to the December Elections where we will set the conditions through our force protection efforts to

ensure a safe and secure environment for the citizens to take part in voting.

*"We are looking forward to coming home soon and seeing all of our loved ones, but until then we will continue to press the fight to the enemy"*





Congratulations go out to SPC Sharp and SGT Paladino for passing the promotion boards, and we look forward to SGT Ojeda to do the same in December. Our platoon medic "Doc" Weaver has been doing a great job at the Battalion aid station,



assisting the BN Surgeon during several surgical operations, and has received many laudatory comments from the whole chain of command. He will be a great asset to our platoon because of his efforts.

Finally, congratulations to PFC Palush, who is being promoted in December to Specialist for his outstanding work with

Charlie Company, once again exemplifying the "Sapper spirit." We are looking forward to coming home soon and seeing all of our loved ones, but until then we will continue to press the fight to the enemy and continue to provide support to the White Falcons with the best engineers in the Army!

1LT Torres

*"We patiently await or return  
to Fort Bragg and hope to see  
all of you very soon"*

#### Scout Platoon

Happy Holidays from the Scout Platoon! While we look forward to the day we return home, it remains eventful as we continue to support the companies out in sector with a variety of missions. Recently, we have added a couple new members to the Platoon: Sergeant Brandon Sipp from Delta Company and Sergeant Cabrera from Alpha Company. We would also like to congratulate Sergeant Sipp as he is celebrating his promotion to Staff Sergeant as of December 1st. We patiently await or return to Fort Bragg and hope to see all of you very soon.

SFC Meisner



#### Mortar Platoon

Greeting from the Battalion's Mortar Platoon! As our time here comes to an end, we are doing great! We recently conducted a mortar live fire exercise in the vast desert to our East, firing over 200 rounds from within a valley floor. The training exercise was an excellent learning experience for the new soldiers in our Platoon. The Platoon was able to certify our proficiency on the mortars, although our duty requirements this deployment have included everything but indirect fires. When we weren't on the streets, we were conducting "home improvements". We turned a centuries old house into a relative palace for our Platoon. Our Platoon plumbers and electricians have made numerous improvements to our living conditions by piecing together two old washing machines that we found, and constructed a stand up shower with a hot water heater. Additionally, we acquired an old refrigerator to keep our drinks cold, and have constructed a "Flintstone-style" gym to help keep us physically fit. As you can see, we are making the best of our situation here trying to bring the comforts of home to Iraq as best we can without our families and friends. We love and miss you all, and will see you soon!

All the Way, Battalion Mortars







### Support Platoon

The S&T Platoon has been busy bringing everything from Thanksgiving dinner to showers out to the companies in Tal A'far. All the guys have been working hard to keep these trucks running for our daily trip into town. We were begging for rain for the longest time to cut down on the dust but when it came it turned the dust to mud and we couldn't go thru the desert for two days. Now that the mud has dried, it is much better; no dust and no mud. SPC Roy and PFC Arroyo are occasionally out with D Co operating the fuel truck for a few days at a time but, they don't seem to mind. SPC Oliver is expecting a third child in mid January and he can't wait to get home to help out his wife. Of course, we could not get by without the entertainment of big Ronnie. We are all looking forward to getting home and spending time with our families.

LT Summers and SSG Holmgren



### Fire Support Platoon

Operations are going very well these last few months. Everyone here is in high spirits and very anxious to get home to all of you. We have been very busy conducting patrols and coordinating helicopter support to provide a safe and stable environment for the people of Tal A'far. The Fire Support Teams have kept current on all Call-for-Fire missions by planning and executing a recent live-fire exercise utilizing indirect mortar fire and air to ground close air support from helicopters. From everyone here at White Falcon FIST, we send our love and wish you Happy Holidays.



The Battalion Fire Support Element has been doing great things these last three months. There has been a few thing that stand out such as Joseph Watson getting promoted to the rank of SPC (very well deserved) also reenlisting to stay in the mighty White Falcons for another five years. In between every episode of Smallville and Alias, CPT Brown, SSG Kaltved, and SFC Morgan have coordinated with the aviation unit to get all of the guys a ride in an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior (helicopter) to keep up the morale. SPC Mobley or "Starbucks" has been working his fingers to the bone, getting air coverage for all those last minute missions the companies come up with, while at the same time managing to keep his sense of humor that we all know and love. We just got a new addition to the FSE team, SSG Clark after successfully completing BNCOC, he pushed forward and we are expecting great things from him also.





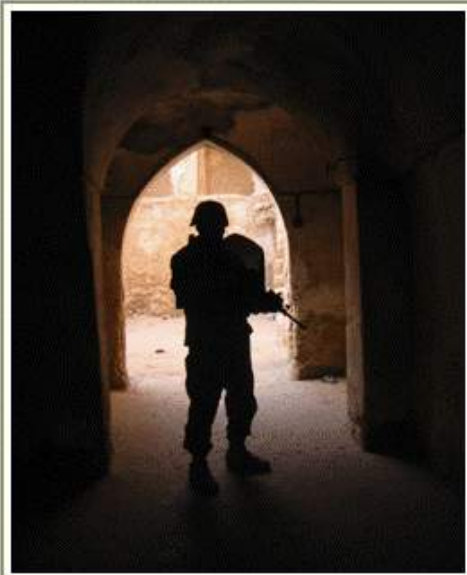
Alpha Team has enjoyed great success thus far. PFC Hamilton, PV2 Needham, SGT Holbrook, and LT Turner have built upon their previous deployment experiences during OIF II while PFC Wegley and SSG Endl have had success during this their first deployment. Along with combat patrols throughout Tal A'far, the team has participated in left seat rides on Kiowa Warrior Helicopters to get a bird's eye view from one of the Fire Support assets FIST team members use everyday. In addition, SSG Endl has enjoyed a birthday while deployed while LT Turner was promoted to 1LT on 1 Dec. All of Alpha team is looking forward to returning home to loved ones and spending much needed time with family and friends

Bravo Team has been very busy over the past three months. All of the guys have been doing great things for the company and more importantly, making their FSO look good! SPC Noger attended the November promotions board and will be entering the NCO corps in January. SGT Seeger's incessant movie quotes constantly keep us guessing as well as laughing. He's hard at work teaching his RTO PFC Tisdale how to be a good forward observer since he is due to ETS this coming spring as well as SGT Badger. SGT Badger's numerous nicknames, (Badger be Violent, Captain Black beard, etc...) he has chosen for himself has us worried about whether or not he is having an identity crisis! SGT Badger however, continues to do more than the average soldier on a daily basis and comp-

lains about how he's not doing enough. PFC Tisdale has emerged from the shadows of the mail room to become a louder more confident combat soldier. SSG Cuevas is keeping the guys in line and after a small fire in the room we are now sharing clothes. SSG Cuevas has also turned me from a gentleman into a 'Gangsta' as we listen to Young Jeezy daily. Day after day the bond between the team continues to grow and we continue to learn more about each other. We deployed as a team and will return as a family of brothers. We are all looking forward to seeing out families and wives as well as spending the later part of the holidays with them.



Charlie team, these last few months, has definitely been busy. From coordinating air coverage for patrols throughout the city to registering the C Company Mortars, we've had our hands full. Most of which has been spent in the gym or trying to catch a cat nap when possible. As you know, this isn't the first trip to the desert for some of us. SSG Holley, SGT Epling and newly promoted SGT Froerer are all their third time. LT Kish, PFC Keyser and PFC Galvez are all here for the first time but have grown accustomed to their surroundings and are doing fine. PFC Keyser also celebrated his 31st birthday on September 17th, as well as his one year anniversary OCT 4th. All in all, everything is going well and we hope to be coming home soon. Delta Company has helped provide a better picture of the battlefield to the leadership of Delta Company during several route clearances and numerous raids on high value targets in Tal A'far. In addition, PFC Espinosa executed a successful mortar call for fires on November 29, 2005. SSG Gant has his hands full





with training his team, handling any issues that may arise and staying motivated. Both Espinosa and Gant are enjoying their time together but are very anxious to come home to all of you.

Charlie Company FIST



*"As a whole we play a large part in mission accomplishment and we thank all of them for the outstanding jobs they do"*



### Maintenance Section

It's all ball bearings to most but not to the Maintenance Platoon. The Maintenance Guys have had their hands on everything from small tracked vehicles to wheel chairs...I bet you didn't even know we were in the health care business? I need to mention first that SGT Willis and SPC Horton have done an outstanding job on the November promotion board and are now eligible for promotion to the next higher rank. Our Platoon is broken down in a few different ways. Our Contact Team consists of SGT(P) Willis, PFC Moore and PFC Nixon. They are in most cases the first guys on the job when a piece of equipment goes down, not to mention providing and maintaining power generation to their COB. We have another lonely soul, SPC Aguiar, located at a different outpost providing outstanding power generation maintenance to the Battalion's nerve center, if you will. There are also two men back at Fort Bragg, SGT Cunningham and PV2 Grant working to keep our home station equipment in good shape.



*Maintenance Platoon*

They have also provided a few of the hard to find parts by mailing them to us. If it wasn't for them, some of the guys would have had a hard time turning left or right in their vehicles. For the rest of the platoon, PFC Smith, SPC Hauser, SPC(P) Horton, SGT Bailey, SGT Hobbs, SSG Miller, SSG Lindsay, SFC Reese and CW2 Tingle, we all take care of the large scale maintenance that goes on from ordering repair parts for the fleet of vehicles and weapons, to engine and transmission replacement, to replacing a wheel on a single wheel chair. As a whole, we play a large part in mission accomplishment and we thank all of them for the outstanding jobs they do.

SFC Reese and CW2 Tingle



## COMMO

There are some exciting changes taking place in the Commo Platoon during this deployment. It is an awesome sight to witness our junior enlisted Paratroopers rising to the challenges of leadership and responsibility.



*"It is an awesome sight to witness our junior enlisted Paratroopers rising to the challenges of leadership and responsibility"*

Since the last White Falcon Newsletter, we witnessed two of our Commo Paratroopers seize the torch of leadership by becoming Non-Commissioned Officers. Newly promoted SGT Jordan Ferrel and SGT Ivan Fore have taken on their new role like an old glove—much expected from experienced combat veterans. On their heels are SPC Scott Ferris and SPC Christian Rivera. These two Paratroopers are studying feverishly for the next promotion board. We have absolute confidence in them that they will do well. Just a note: SPC Ferris, SPC Rivera and SPC Donald Mag work tirelessly putting our slide shows and newsletters together. Between their constant trouble-shooting, exciting studying periods, and relentless guard duties, I think that they did an excellent job.



SPC Mag continues to display his unlimited potential during this deployment. We expect him to be our next Jumpmaster in the Platoon. By the way, SPC Mag finally became legal—he will be celebrating his 21st birthday on 18 December. Happy birthday Magdaddy! PFC William "Kip" Seifert is a valuable addition to the platoon during this deployment. His first-rate tactical satellite skills were tested and proven during a few out of sector missions—praise for his quality training in 82d Signal Battalion.

With all the excitement that comes to the Platoon with "change," is the welcoming "constant." SGT Eric Brim continues to prove himself as one of our most resourceful



NCOs in the platoon. We can always count on great results with every task we throw his way. We also appreciate his return to the Platoon after a short trip back to the States.



As always, SSG Marcus Lathrop is having a great time taking care of the shop and running the daily operations. He is definitely one of our valued Paratroopers in the Platoon. Without his comedic acts and endless jokes our deployment will be as exciting as a rainy day at the beach. He definitely brings the life to the party!

SFC Adam Tweedell continues to play an important role in the Battalion Task Force operations. As the senior NCO in the TAC, he is relied upon for his leadership as well as his technical and tactical proficiency. Without his solid leadership and technical expertise, this platoon would have not been as successful as we have been throughout this deployment.

We all want to thank you for your thoughts and prayer. Just knowing that you support us and our actions gets us through the monotony and excitement that come with the day-to-day operations. We truly miss each and every one of you and we look forward to our long anticipated reunion at Green Ramp.

Voice of the White Falcons!



Misser, SPC Buchberger, SPC McQueen, PFC Vianelli, PFC Fatz, and PFC Paroff have been executing the difficult task of guards at the Regimental Internment Facility, watching over enemy detainees. They have consistently displayed the professionalism that we expect from each and every one of our soldiers. SSG Thomas, SGT Quimbly, SPC Huff, SPC Miller, and SPC McQueen screened over two hundred detainees during a four day Battalion operation. Most recently, PFC Vianelli and PFC Fatz volunteered to spend a few days outside their normal duties providing security for the Battalion TAC on combat patrols. In all, the White Falcon DFAC has remained flexible, allowing the Battalion to count on the cooks to perform tasks outside their normal jobs whenever the Battalion needs them.



### Cooks

So far this deployment the 2nd Battalion Cooks have fulfilled quite a few roles. From SPC Huff supervising the packaging and out-loading of hot dinner every night to PFC Edwards serving as a Radio Operator and Armored Personnel Carrier Driver with the Medical Platoon, the White Falcon cooks are supporting this Battalion in every area. SPC Templeton, SPC

*"They have consistently displayed the professionalism that we expect from each and every one of our soldiers"*